

He had **powerful enemies** in his own party: **FAULKNER, CRAIG, CHICHESTER CLARK**. They didn't trust him and thought he was doing a poor job 😞🇬🇧

Some of O'Neill's decisions were **UNPOPULAR** with some Unionists like meeting Irish PM Sean Lemass and keeping it a secret 🙄🇬🇧🇮🇪



O'NEILL was **appointed not elected** by the party. He was a **liberal unionist** with a wealthy background and English education. He therefore found it hard to get the party behind his reforms



DIVIDED SUPPORT IN PARTY ☁️

N. Ireland had been left to its own devices for 50 years until it began to create trouble for the British government



Unionists were **dismayed** by the **concessions** being offered to nationalists. Many felt this was **achieved by violence or the threat of violence**

LACK OF CONFIDENCE FROM UNIONIST COMMUNITY 😞

The **HUNT COMMISSION** and **CAMERON COMMISSION** both heavily **criticise** unionists and the RUC for their roles in the violence



Many see O'Neill as perhaps increasing the **threat of a United Ireland**



WHY DID O'NEILL RESIGN IN 1969?

LACK OF CONFIDENCE From BRITISH GOVERNMENT 🇬🇧



The British government were concerned about the images coming out about the **Derry March** in 1968 and Burntollet bridge

They were also **concerned** O'Neill was letting the situation get out of hand



The **UVF** deliberately **bombed a water pipeline**. This was blamed on the IRA (as the UVF had hoped) They knew O'Neill would then have to **resign**

O'Neill describes it as **'blowing him out of office'**

O'Neill called an **election** in **Feb 1969** hoping that he would win lots of support from **BOTH moderate unionists and nationalists** - thereby isolating the extremists on both sides

The results were not what he wanted.

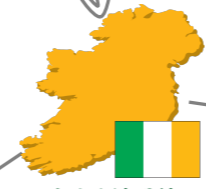
- His **OUP** vote was **down 10%**
- **Paisley** came within **1,000 votes** of beating O'Neill in his own seat!
- **Nationalists** did not vote for O'Neill

Poor results



CROSSROADS ELECTION

LACK OF CONFIDENCE FROM NATIONALISTS



BURNTOLLET BRIDGE

The attack on the Peoples Democracy March in January 1969 deeply angered the nationalist community

NICRA started marching again and tension started to build



O'Neills hoped for **support from moderate nationalists** 🇮🇪 **never materialised**

Nationalists initially **welcomed** O'Neills ideas and gestures such as meeting Archbishop Conway and support for Catholic schools and hospitals 🙌🇮🇪

HOWEVER nothing on reforms has been **solidly delivered**. This led to **frustration and anger** 😞🙄

In fact some policies are **provocative** to Catholics including

- A **new city** called **Craigavon** (after the first unionist PM) 🏙️
- The building of a new **university** at **Coleraine** rather than **DERRY** (which was the obvious choice as it was the second largest city in Northern Ireland.) 🏫

Reforms like the **FIVE POINT PROGRAMME** are **welcomed** but **don't go far enough** for many nationalists. They want an **end to the B Specials** and special powers act for example

